Free Snowman Stencil!

THOMAS & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

Complies with EN71 (Toy Safety) Not suitable for children under 3 years due to small parts
Supplied by Marshalls Limited. PE5 7AD. Please retain this information for future reference

No. 345 £1.35
20th Dec - 2nd Jan 2001
Fortnightly
9 770954 939121 51

Really Useful Reading with...

THOMAS & FRIENDS

Welcome

... to the world of Thomas and his friends. Thomas is ready to take your child on a special journey of learning and discovery.

Stories and activities involving all your child's favourite Thomas characters encourage active reading and participation, stimulate the imagination and teach basic moral and social issues.

All of the elements in this magazine are based on the findings of academic research.

3. Brave Bertie
a story to read

8. Look and See
things to spot in a big picture

10. Percy's Poster
a rebus picture story

12. Colouring Fun
an engine picture for you to colour

14. Story Puzzle
tell the story in the right order

16. Poster
a picture to pull out and keep

18. New Year Blues
a rhyming story

22. All About...
spotlight on Duncan

24. Caroline's Christmas
a bedtime story

28. Dot to Dot
join the dots to see the picture

30. Sodor Mail
your letters, drawings and photos

ABC Certified

THOMAS & FRIENDS is published fortnightly by Egmont Fleetway Ltd. 25-31 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9SU. Tel: 020 7344 6400. Editor: Jenny Reader; Designer: Read Creative; Managing Editor: Steve MacManus; Marketing Manager: Debbie Burgess; Product Manager: Debbie Plummer; Marketing Director: Douglas Pocock; Managing Director: Rob McMenamy; Advertising: Steven Goldsmith; Production: Sarah Cobley. Britt Allcroft's Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends based on The Railway Series by The Rev W Awdry © Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Limited 2000. All underlying rights worldwide Britt Allcroft (Thomas)LLC. THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS and THOMAS & FRIENDS are trademarks of Britt Allcroft Inc in the USA, Mexico and Canada and of Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Limited in the rest of the world. BRITT ALLCROFT COMPANY is a trademark of The Britt Allcroft Company plc. Sublicensed by arrangement with Egmont Children's Books Limited, London. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this publication with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Reproduction without permission strictly forbidden. Thomas and Friends must not be sold for more than the price shown on the cover. Printed in the UK by Goodhead Print Group, Bicester. Back issues (from 305 only) Dept BIM, 25-31 Tavistock Place, London, WC1H 9SF Tel: 020 7344 6444 Mon-Thurs only between 12am-12pm and 2pm-4pm. Distributed by Seymour, 86 Newman Street, London W1H 3LD Tel: 020 7396 8000. Origination by DL Repro. Subscriptions Tel: 01795 414900. ISSN 0264 - 9381

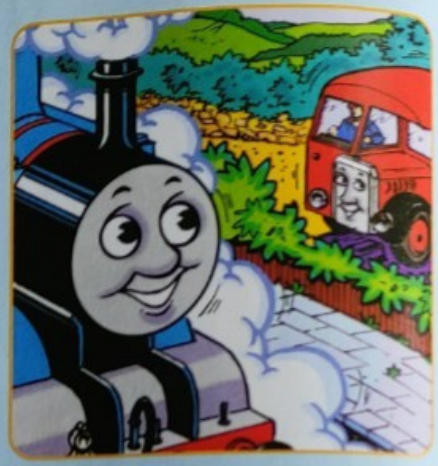
fun to read together

Brave Bertie!

1. One morning, Thomas was puffing along his branch line when he spotted an aeroplane in the sky. At first, it was a long way away and looked very small.

2. But as the aircraft flew closer, Thomas gasped in amazement. A woman was standing up on one of the front wings. "Smoke and ashes!" cried Thomas.

3. The little plane zoomed lower, over the railway line. Its pilot and the woman waved to Thomas. Then the plane flew on and out of sight. Later, Thomas met Bertie.



4. Thomas was standing in a station as Bertie arrived at the bus stop, outside. "You'll never guess what I've seen!" cried the tank engine and explained.

5. "What a way to travel," he told Bertie. "I hardly dared watch!" "That old-fashioned bi-plane must be practising for the special stunt show, this Saturday," said Bertie.

6. There was a big poster on his paintwork: 'Don't miss the Sodor Stunt Show Spectacular!' "The woman on the plane is Fearless Fay," added Bertie.

7. "Wow!" thought Thomas. "I wish I'd seen her," said Bertie, driving off. "Lucky you!" Next day, Thomas stood near Bertie again. The bus was really excited.

8. "Fearless Fay's friend, Daredevil Dave, wants me in the show," Bertie boasted. "I'd keep my wheels firmly on the ground if I were you!" cried Thomas.

9. On the afternoon of the show, Thomas took lots of people there in Annie and Clarabel. Then he rolled into a nearby siding. Thomas saw Bertie standing in the showground.

10. To open the show, the bi-plane flew past with Fearless Fay standing on the wing. Everyone cheered! Then, Daredevil Dave appeared on a motorbike.

10. The stuntman roared around the showground then onto a steep ramp, leaning up behind Bertie. "Oh, no! He'll crash on top of Bertie!" thought Thomas.

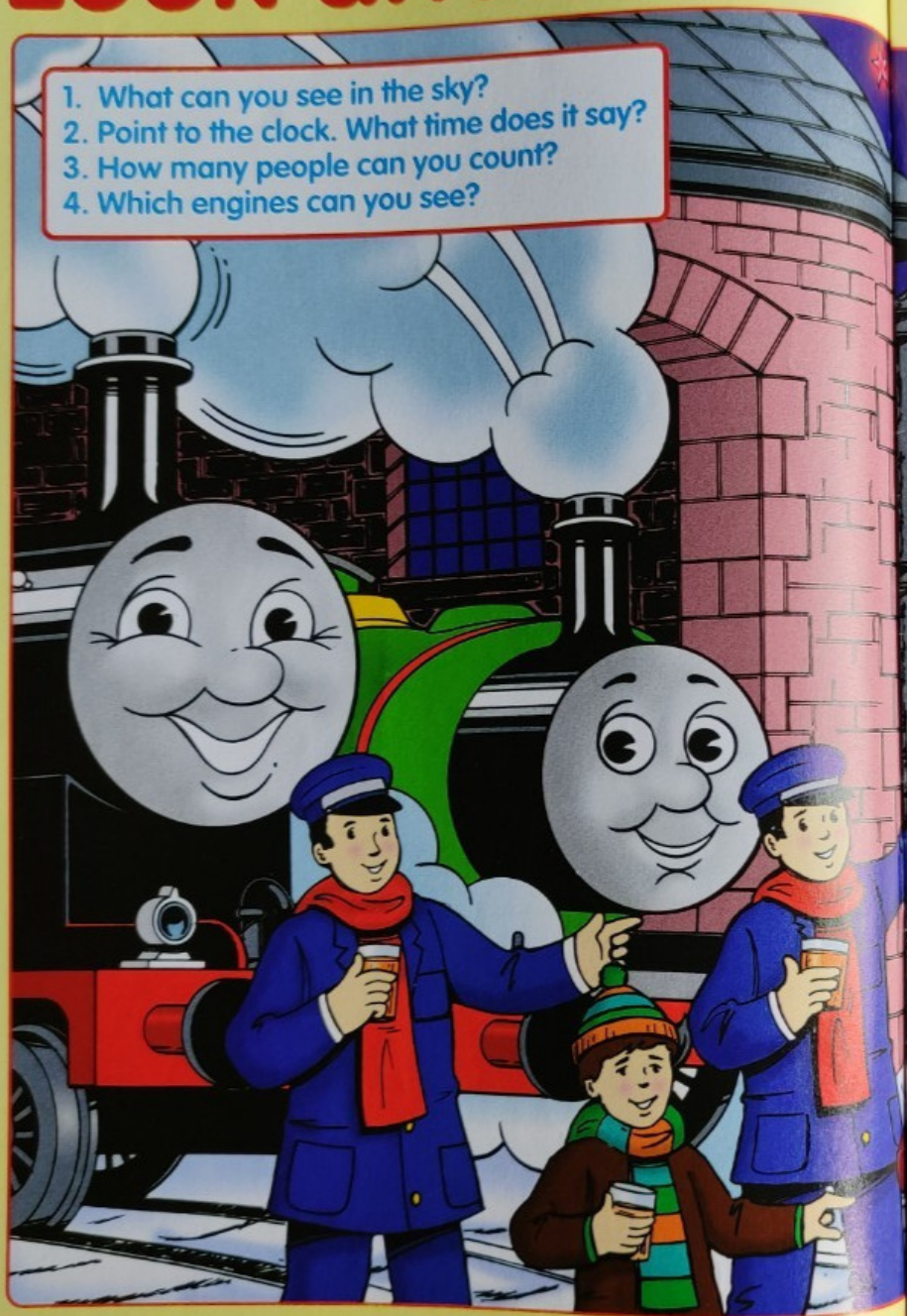
12. VROOOM! At the end of the ramp, Daredevil Dave's motorbike took off into the air. It jumped right over Bertie and landed safely on another ramp.

13. PHEEEESH! Thomas puffed with relief. Meanwhile, Daredevil Dave thanked Bertie for his help and gave him a special sticker. It said, "To Bertie, the stunt star bus!"

14. "Peep-peep! Well done, Bertie. You're very brave too," whistled Thomas. "That was scary for you, wasn't it?" "Not really," smiled the bus. "I didn't even look at all!"

The End

Look and See!


1. What can you see in the sky?
2. Point to the clock. What time does it say?
3. How many people can you count?
4. Which engines can you see?

It's New Year's Eve and everyone is celebrating!
Look at the picture. What can you see?

Answers: 1. Fireworks 2. 12 O'Clock 3. Six 4. James and Percy

Rusty's rebus story

Percy's Poster

Trace over the words below. Then read the story, when you see a picture say the word!

The words made into pictures are...

Percy

sacks

cards

poster

Santa

sleigh

van

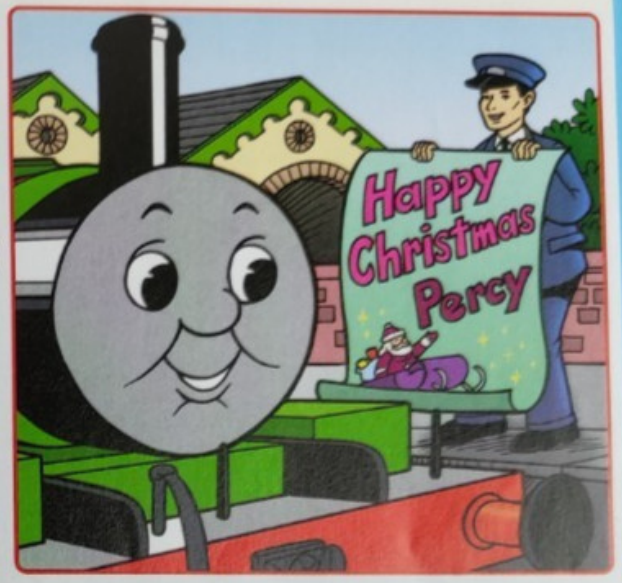
postman

shed

balloons

While was busy delivering of Christmas , he saw a big with riding his on it. 'Don't Miss the Christmas Sales!' it said. Percy thought the poster looked great! Later, he told the other engines. Soon they sent Christmas to each other too. But poor didn't get one! Then the Sodor mail arrived. The had a sack full of . But nothing for Percy!

The other were hung up in the engine . Early on Christmas day, The Fat Controller sent Percy to fetch some boxes of crackers and for the station party. He passed the Sodor Mail making a special delivery. When returned to the main station, the other engines were waiting. "We've a surprise for you!" they said.



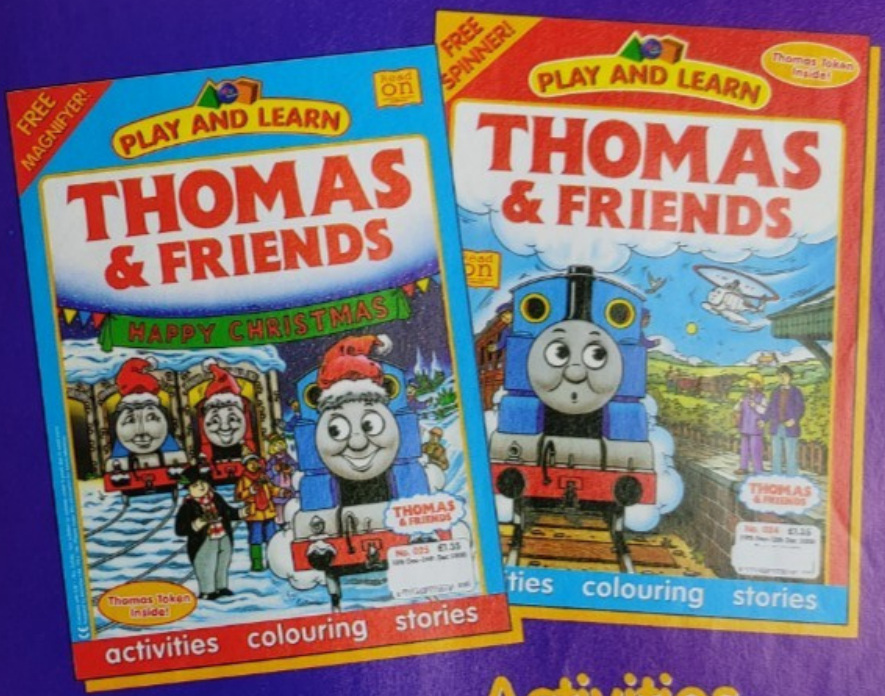
While Percy was away, the had brought a huge that had been put up in the shed. "Happy Christmas, Percy!' was printed in big letters. It even had and his on it. felt much happier. "We thought you'd prefer a Christmas from us all, this year," explained the engines.

The End

Colouring Fun

Use your crayons to colour this splendid picture of Trevor!

Don't miss the new Play and Learn Thomas & Friends!



Inside...

Activities, games and puzzles!

On sale every fortnight.

Story puzzle

1

3

The right order is ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Answer: 1, 4, 2, 3

Write the numbers of these pictures below to show which order they should go in. Then tell the story yourself.

2

4

What are the children making?

Answer: A snowman

Advertisement

FREE £10 GIFT VOUCHER ON EVERY £20 SPENT

This gift voucher offer applies to all orders taken between December 26th - February 15th

CHARACTER WAREHOUSE

All your favourite characters under one roof!

£19.99 TH06037 Branchline Playtrack

£14.99 TH06020 Station House Accessory

£9.99 TH06011 Tunnel Accessory

£9.99 TH06012 Crossing Accessory

£29.99 TH06010 Turntable Playset (Does not include engines)

£12.99 TH06004 Carry Case

£6.99 TH06002 Water Tower Accessory

£6.99 TH06003 Crane Accessory

£9.99 TH06001 Windmill Track Accessory

£9.99 TH06008 Millenium Thomas Limited Edition

£4.99 TH06101 Gordon

£4.99 TH06023 James

£4.99 TH06037 Donald

£4.99 TH06038 Douglas

£3.99 TH06015 Annie & Clarabel

£4.99 TH06028 Harold

£4.49 TH06042 Fat Controller & Porter

£3.99 TH06036 Breakdown Truck

NEW ERTL CHARACTERS

Cranky the Crane	TH06110	6.99
Thumper	TH06111	4.99
Old Slow Coach	TH06113	4.49
Gordons Special	TH06114	4.49

£4.99 TH06115 Bertrum (Not Illustrated)

£4.99 TH06112 Butch

£4.49 TH06103 Thomas

£4.49 TH06100 Lady

£4.49 TH06099 Dodge

£4.49 TH06107 Splatter

MOVIE CHARACTERS

£4.99 TH06101 Diesel 10

NEW MOVIE CHARACTERS

Percy	TH06104	4.49
James	TH06105	4.99
Henry	TH06106	4.99
Bertie	TH06107	4.49
Annie/Clarabel	TH06108	3.99
Troublesome Trucks	TH06109	3.99

(All of the above are not Illustrated)

Open 24hrs 7 days a week

CREDIT CARD ORDER LINE
0870 162 0033

Post and Packing charges:- £2.99 Standard delivery
£4.99 for 48 hour Express delivery

Character Warehouse Ltd . Broadgauge Business Park . Bishops Lydeard . Taunton . TA4 3[illegible]

www.character-warehouse.com

WHICH ARE YOUR FAVOURITE? ERTL® DIECAST MODELS

£4.99 TH06010 Henry

£4.99 TH06021 Edward

£4.49 TH06024 Thomas

£4.49 TH06018 Percy

£4.49 TH06014 Toby

£4.49 TH06026 Duck

£4.49 TH06035 Oliver

£3.99 TH06027 Troublesome Trucks

£4.49 TH06036 Diesel

£4.49 TH06018 Bill

£4.49 TH06019 Ben

£4.49 TH06025 Henrietta

£4.49 TH06029 Terrence

£4.49 TH06017 Bertie

£4.49 TH06040 Trevor

£3.99 TH06030 Tar & Milk Wagons

£4.99 TH06044 Daisy

£4.99 TH06045 Boco

£4.99 TH06034 Bulgy

£3.99 TH06031 Mavis

£4.99 TH06041 City of Truro

£3.99 TH06055 Old Coaches

£3.99 TH06042 Sodor Oil Trucks

£4.49 TH06058 Toad

£3.99 TH06025 Sodor Mail Coaches

£4.49 TH06050 George

£4.49 TH06040 Culdee

£4.49 TH06048 Godred

£4.99 TH06047 D199 Diesel

£4.99 TH06060 Scrap Trevor

£4.49 TH06061 Rheneas

£4.49 TH06065 Rusty

£4.49 TH06062 Duncan

£4.49 TH06054 Sir Handel

£3.99 TH06040 Express Coaches

£4.49 TH06058 Skarloey

£4.49 TH06063 Peter Sam

£4.49 TH06057 Lord Harry

£4.49 TH06061 Fat Controllers Car

£4.49 TH06032 Caroline

£4.49 TH06033 Stepney

£4.49 TH06039 Duke

£4.99 TH06054 Henry's Log Car

£4.99 TH06031 The Diesel

£4.99 TH06070 Bulstrode

£3.99 TH06049 S.C Ruffy

£4.99 TH06068 Chinese Dragon

£4.49 TH06066 Wilbert

£4.49 TH06067 Sixteen

ERTL DIECASTS MODELS NOT ILLUSTRATED

Sodor Mail Coaches	TH06059	3.99	Sodor Mail Van	TH06076	4.49
D.Fusit	TH06071	3.99	Crane	TH06075	4.99
Canal Boat	TH06074	4.99	Soft Side Truck	TH06072	4.49
Fire Engine	TH06077	4.49	Bi Plane	TH06079	4.49
Lorry 2	TH06080	4.49	Lorry 3	TH06081	4.49
Iron Bert	TH06083	4.49	Iron Arry	TH06082	4.49
Derek the Diesel	TH06078	4.99			

kidstime Character Warehouse is a Kidstime Entertainment Company

Designs and Colours may vary - Goods subject to availability - We reserve the right to change prices and specification without prior notice - Errors and Omissions excepted

Thomas' rhyme time!

New Year Blues

Early one cold morning,
Thomas was at the station

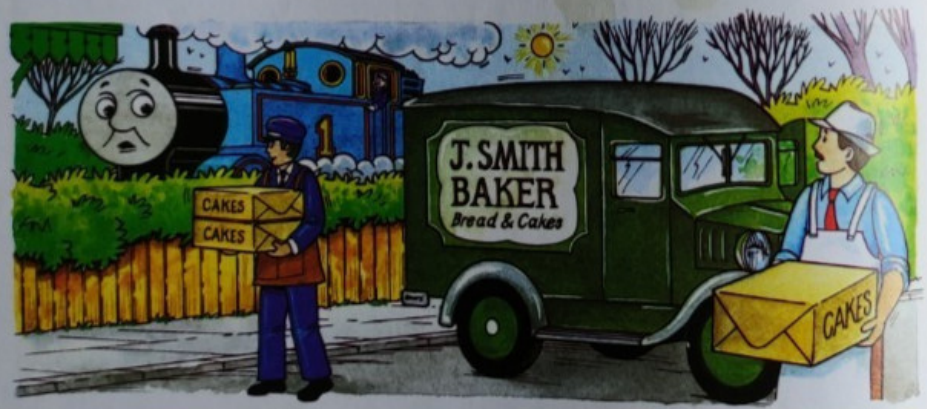
When The Fat Controller spoke
about a celebration.

"We'll need streamers," he told
Driver, "and fireworks galore,

Make sure to remember
to collect them from the store."

As Thomas steamed away,
he saw a large grocery van

Full of cakes and biscuits,
emptied by the delivery man.



Said Thomas to his driver,
"I don't mean to be rude,

But what is The Fat Controller
going to do with all that food?"

"It's for this evening," Driver laughed,
"for today is New Year's Eve,

And so there'll be a party –
but now we have to leave!"

Thomas felt sad that
he hadn't been invited,

"All the others will be going,
I bet they are delighted!"

As Thomas steamed away,
he thought of all the trains

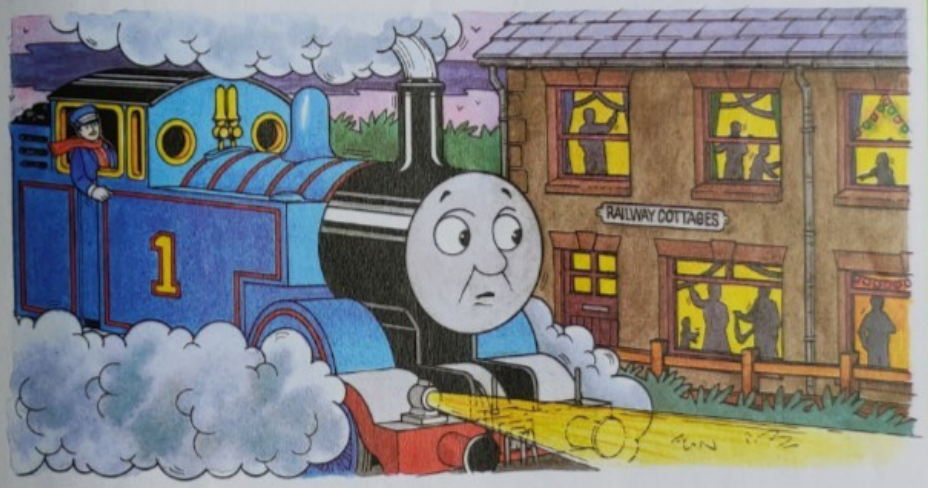
Enjoying the New Year's party
– then he saw James.

"Hello, Thomas!" James
chirped, "Sorry, got to dash,

I'm getting washed and
polished for this evening's
bash,"

That made Thomas feel worse,
"I'll be on my own,

Working hard out here,
while they celebrate at home!"



Throughout the day he saw
people making preparations,

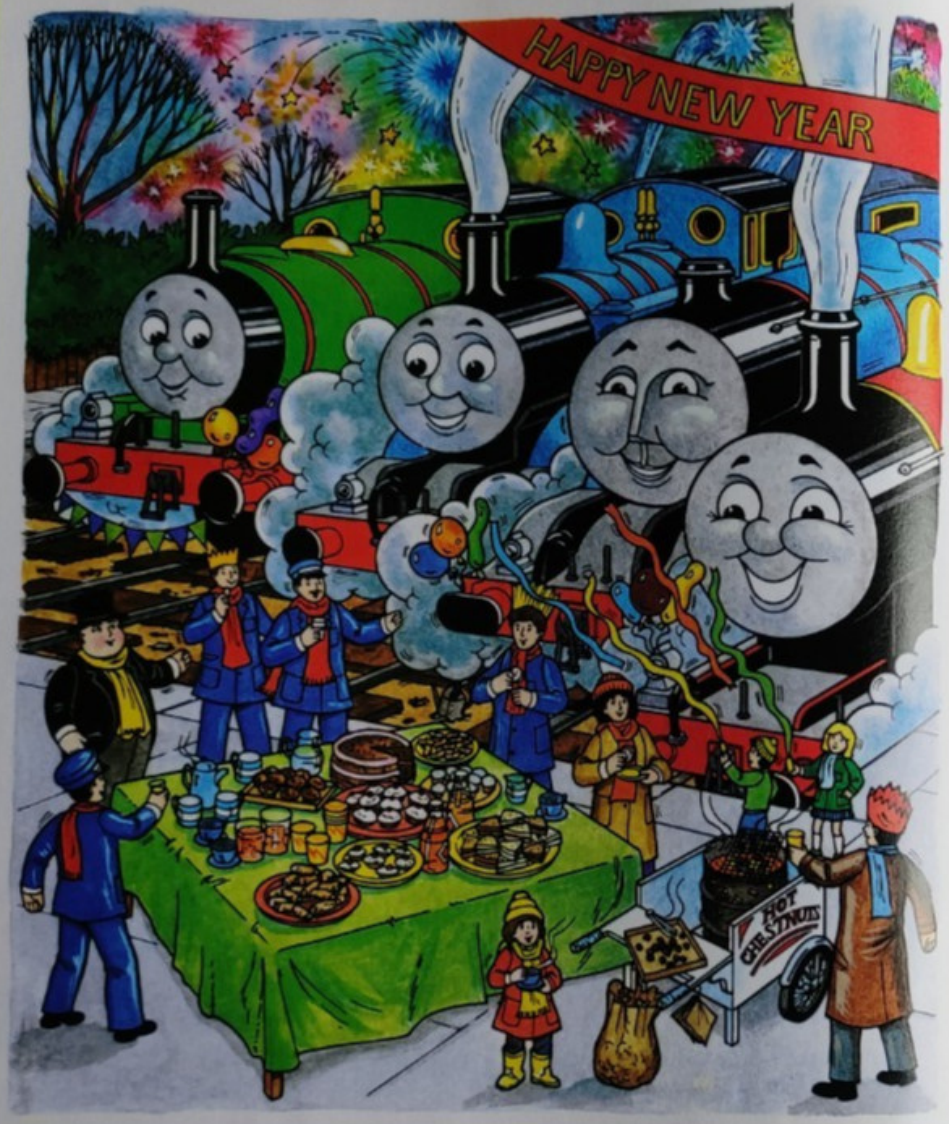
Getting themselves ready
For their New Year celebrations.

As nighttime came, he grumbled,
"I suppose it's time for bed,"

His driver grinned knowingly,
"Let's get back to the engine shed,"

Thomas moaned, "Without my
friends, tonight will be a bore!"

But as the station came into view,
guess what Thomas saw?



The Fat Controller and his friends
were waiting there for him,

He chuckled, "Now that you've
arrived the party can begin!"

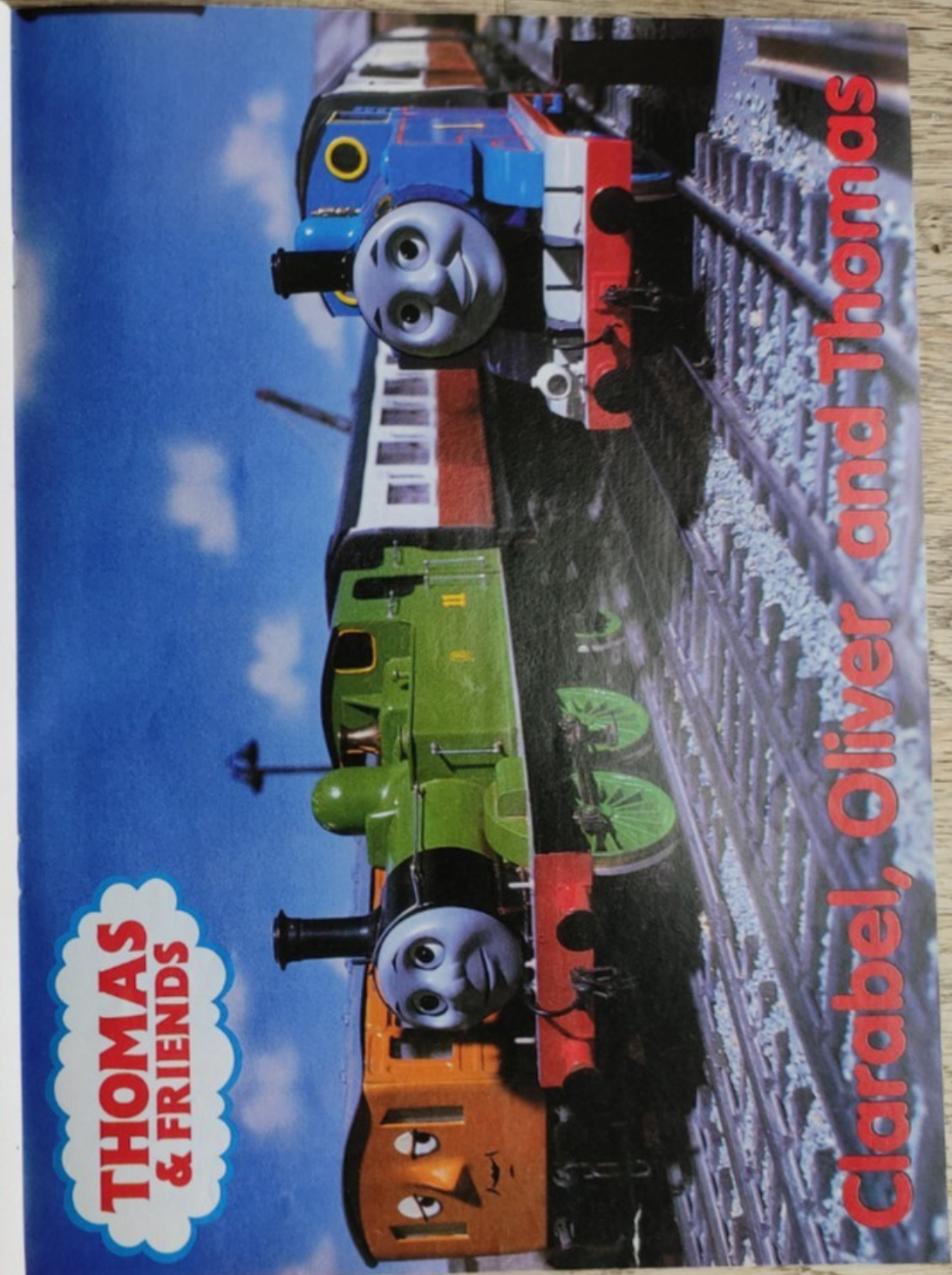
As Thomas smiled in surprise,
his driver lent a hand,

And lit the fireworks, saying,
"Let's start with a big bang!"

The Fat Controller smiled and
said, "I'm glad that you're all here,

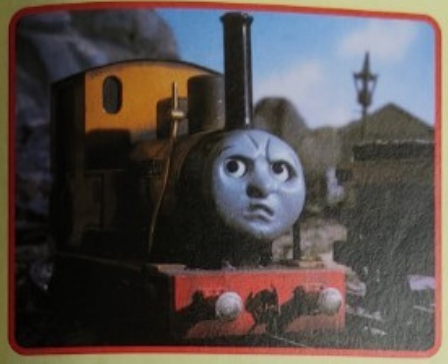
Have a great time everyone –
and a Happy New Year!"

The End



All about Duncan

Duncan always means well, but will rock 'n' roll on the tracks whenever the mood takes him. This nearly always results in him jumping off the rails! He has a mind of his own which often makes him appear rude. However, he does have a big heart and works hard on the Narrow Gauge Railway.



Win a model of Duncan!

10 lucky readers can win a splendid model of Duncan from the Racing Champions engine range. ERTL

Just tell us:
Which railway will you find Duncan working on?

Write your answer on a postcard along with your name and address and send it to: Thomas/345 model competition, Egmont Fleetway Ltd., PO BOX 29087, London, WC1H 9XE.

Closing date: 7th January 2001

This competition is open to all Thomas readers other than employees of participating companies and their families. We cannot accept responsibility for any entries or prizes that are lost in the post. Please obtain permission from a parent or guardian before entering this competition. Entries are limited to one winner per household.

percy's bedtime story

Caroline's Christmas

1. One frosty Christmas Eve, Caroline the Car was motoring towards the Main Station. She drove even more carefully than usual, as the road was very icy.

2. It was getting dark, so Caroline had turned her lights on. When she pulled up in the station car park, Caroline saw a big Christmas tree covered in lots of bright lights.

3. "Christmas is such a pretty time of year," she smiled. Caroline had brought Christmas cards for her engine friends. Just then, Thomas returned with an extra post train.

4. "Peep-peep! Hello, Caroline!" he whistled. "What do you think of our Christmas tree?" "It's lovely!" said Caroline. "All those coloured lights. I wish I had as many!"

5. Next moment, the Sodor mail van came to meet Thomas to collect the sacks of Christmas mail. The van was travelling fast when suddenly, its wheels skidded.

6. The mail van bumped against a kerb, rocked to and fro, then came to a halt. Tom Tipper, the postman, stepped out. He saw his van's exhaust pipe had fallen off.

7. "My fault!" he sighed. "I hit an icy patch. But, how can I deliver the post now?" "I'll take you," called Caroline, "if you don't mind me being a slowcoach."

8. Tom was only too grateful for Caroline's help. Soon the sacks of mail were all loaded and Caroline set off with Tom on her very first Christmas post round.

9. Meanwhile, The Fat Controller rang the garage to have Tom's mail van repaired. "Caroline deserves a treat for being so kind," puffed Thomas.

10. Then he saw the Stationmaster putting up more decorations. "I've a spare set of tree lights we won't need," he said. "Oh, yes we will," called Thomas.

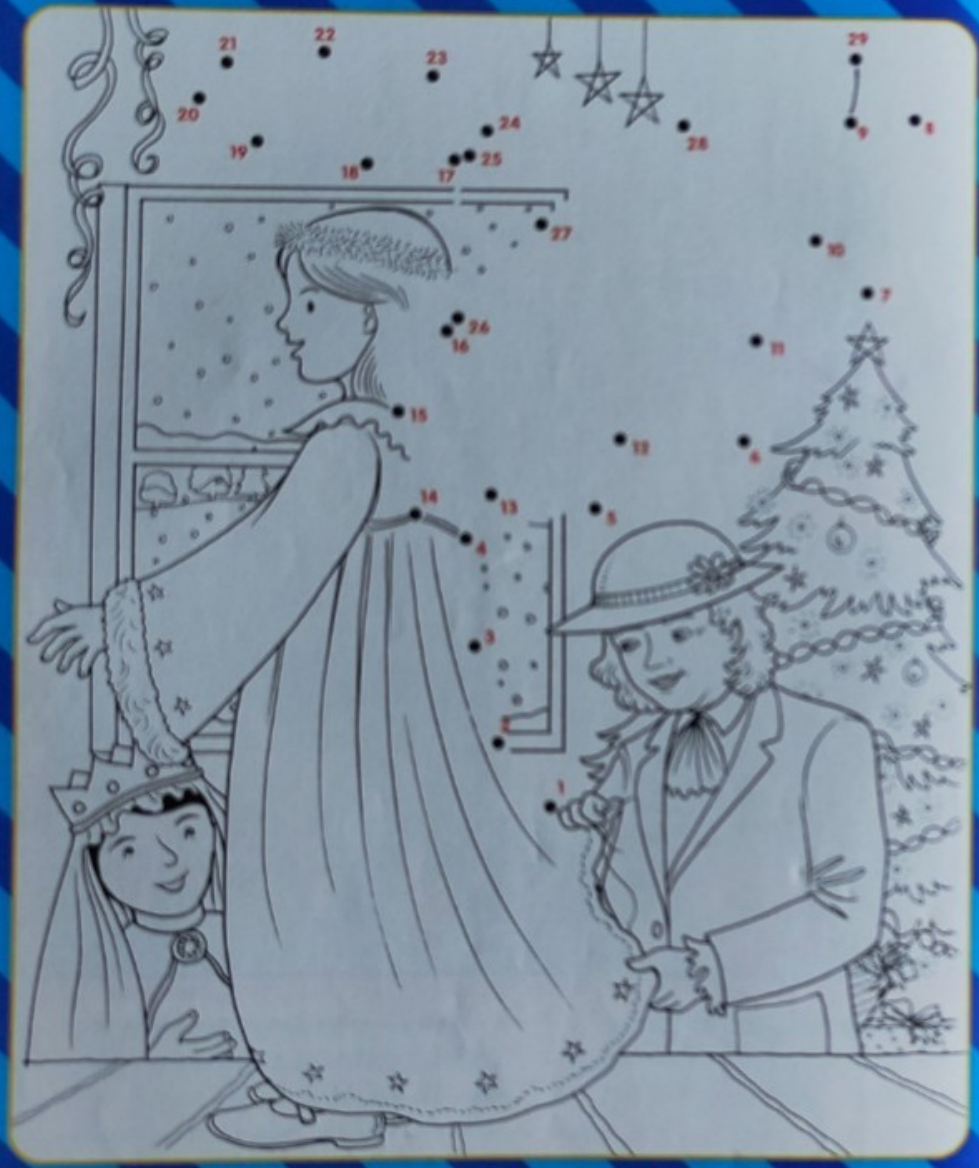
11. By the time Caroline came back, a party was in full swing at the station. "We've something special for you to wear," Thomas told Caroline.

12. Imagine her surprise when the Stationmaster decorated Caroline with the spare set of colourful, twinkling lights. "Now I'm as pretty as a Christmas tree!" she smiled.

The End

Dot to Dot!

Join the dots to complete this Christmas picture.



Now use your crayons to colour in the picture!

Subscription offer!

Subscribe to Thomas & Friends today! For the special subscription price of £30.00 you will get 26 issues for the price of 22!

Really Useful Reading with Thomas & friends!

Postage & packing is FREE!

Free gift with every issue!

Brilliant stories & activities!

Delivered to your door!

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit

DIRECT Debit

Convenient & great value for money!

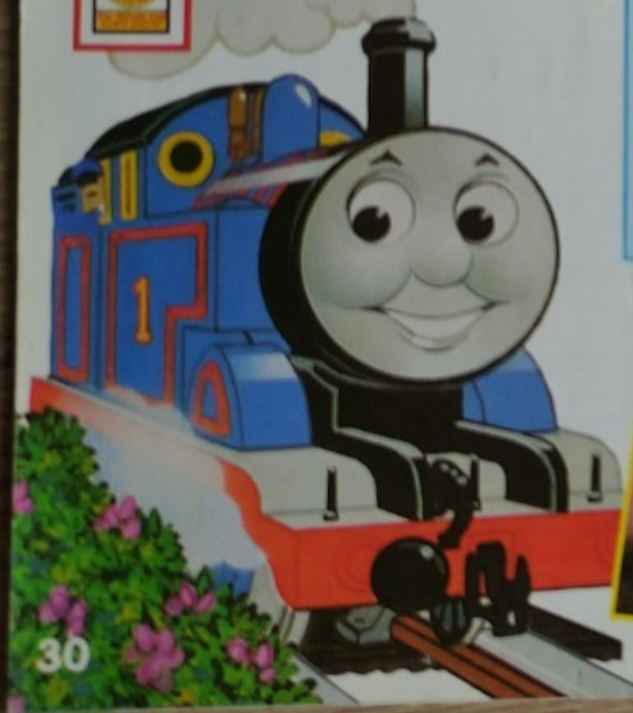
Sodor mail

Please send your letters, pictures and drawings to Sodor Mail, Egmont Fleetway, 25/31 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9SU

COLLECT THOMAS TOKENS
Get your collector's card today! Simply call 01403 242727 or write to Thomas Tokens, PO Box 143, Rosehaven RH13 6FJ

Thomas Token

Ask an adult to cut out the token for you!



Star Poem

Angus McQueen, aged 7, wrote this poem!

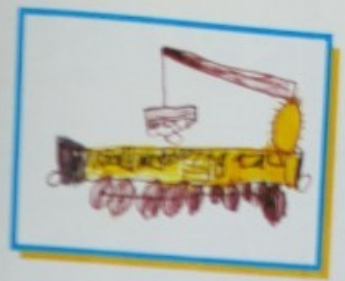
I love Thomas, my friends do too,
He puffs and whistles and is always blue.
And then there's Percy, cheeky and small,
When he sees the others he plays tricks on them all.
Gordon is big, he works very hard,
He pulls the express all the way to the yard.
Lady is beautiful, she stores magic dust,
She's a special engine, and save the railway she must.

If we print your Star letter or rhyme, you will receive a £10 voucher to spend on any items from the Official Thomas Catalogue, packed with Thomas goodies! To obtain a free copy, call 01403 242727 quoting reference FL.

Matthew Maude & James Jarvis

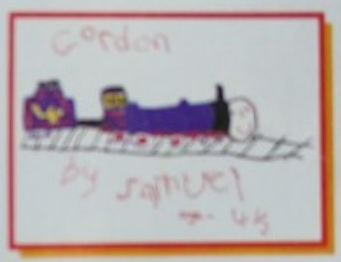
Daniel Bailey, aged 4.

Here's a picture of Diesel 10 by Christopher Taylor, aged 5.



A great picture of Lady by Thomas Weir, aged 4.

Samuel aged 4½ drew this splendid picture of Gordon.



Anyone who has a drawing printed on this page will win a copy of Thomas' Party Pop-Up book from Egmont Children's Books.

Happy birthday!

To

Lewis Prange, aged 4,
Timothy Allen, aged 2,
James Lindsay, aged 2,
Kalju Ligema, aged 3,
Max Green, aged 2,
Kirshan Gug, aged 4,
Christopher Smith, aged 2,
Noel Delaney, aged 4,
Khai Gash, aged 4,
Joshua Hayler, aged 3,
Adam Filkins, aged 3,
Joshua Ryan, aged 6,
Steven Panchen, aged 5.

Remember to send in your details 4 months before your birthday to be sure it will be printed on time.

Richard Platt, aged 2.

Sam Bucknall, aged 3.

Robert Hone, aged 3.

Jack Cornell, aged 4.

Next issue!

Stories to Read • Rhymes and Songs
Puzzles and Activities • Prizes to win
Plus a Thomas token to collect!

Issue 346 on sale from 3rd January 2001!